to take care of the improper use of the telecommunication system by sending malicious and obscene telecommunications.

Permission for use of Cordless Phones of Long Range in India

*553. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Communications India 1996' exhibition was held in Delhi in December, 1996; if so, the purpose thereof and the details of equipments displayed;

(b) whether the cordless phones of the range of 500 meters to 100 Kms. were displayed thereat and distributers were sought therefor in India;

(c) if so, whether phones of that range are permitted to be used in India; if not, the reasons for allowing display thereof;

(d) the permissible range limit for cordless phones in the country; and

(e) whether Government propose to allow use of long range cordless phones in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. It was organised by a private organisation named "Exhibition India". According to the organisers, the purpose of the exhibition was for display and demonstration of equipments and technology for the communications industry. The equipment displayed included telephone Data Radio Communications, telex, teletext, video networking, etc.

(b) to (e) At present, permissible range for cordless phones as attachment to Department of Telecommunications (DOT) telephones is 100 meters. No equipment vendor has offered cordless telephone in the range of 500 meters to 100 Kms. to Department of Telecom for testing.

Orissa Spinning Mills on the verge of closure

*554. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of spinning mills in Orissa are on the verge of closure; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Central Government to safeguard the interests of workers of these spinning mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) In the case of Orissa, as on 31.1.97, 5 mills were registered with BIFR as sick. BIFR has not recommended winding up of any mill. However, one mill is temporarily closed due to financial problems.

Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills.

Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure.

Evaluation of Dam Projects by World Bank

*555. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation has been conducted of the ongoing large dam projects of our country by Banker's Operations Evaluation Department of World Bank; and

(b) if so, the details of all such projects including Upper Indrawati Project?